



Red carpet rollout

U.S. Rep. Ike Skelton

Missouri's 4th District

News in brief

Graduations announced

Four Whiteman members recently graduated from the senior NCO academy at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala. They are: **Senior Master Sgts. Luis Brito**, 509th Maintenance Squadron; **Courtney Davis**, 509th Operations Support Squadron; **Steve Poole**, 509th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron; and **Master Sgt. Scott Thaut**, 509th Bomb Wing.

TMO changes hours

The 509th Logistics Readiness Squadron Traffic Management Flight has changed its hours. It's open 6:30 a.m.-5 p.m. weekdays. Appointments are available after 7 a.m. Customers may also use the Internet for information and forms for permanent change of station moves. For more details, visit <http://afmove.hq.af.mil/default.asp> or call TMO at 687-4128.

LRS announces changes

Beginning Monday, the 509th Logistics Readiness Squadron's customer service, Building 139, hours are 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. weekdays. Emergency requirements and customers on appointment basis will be accepted before 8:30 a.m. and after 2:30 p.m. Coordination with the customer service section must be done before bringing turn-ins to customer service.

For more details, call the 509th LRS customer service at 687-4047.

AFVEA nominations due

Nominations for the Air Force Volunteer Excellence Award are due to the family support center by 4:30 p.m. March 11. The AFVEA was established to recognize federal civilians, family members, and military and federal retirees who perform outstanding volunteer community service of a sustained, direct and consequential nature.

Because of this significance, only four people from Whiteman will be recognized by this award. Those selected will be recognized during the annual Whiteman volunteer reception April 27. For more details, call Bob Berger at 687-1222.

DFAS Web site moves

The Defense Finance and Accounting Service public Web site, www.dfas.mil, moved to a new location on the Internet.

After March 31, users will be redirected to the new site, www.dod.mil/dfas. Webmasters who link to the site or pages within the site should review their links and update them accordingly.

The changes will improve search capability and allow DFAS content to be found at www.dod.mil/dfas, www.defense.mil/dfas, www.pentagon.gov/dfas, www.defense.gov/dfas, www.defenselink.mil/dfas or www.defense.gov/dfas.



Photo by Senior Airman Neo Martin

Now that's really to-go

Whiteman members take a flight lunch as they board a plane bound for Nellis Air Force Base, Nev, to support B-2s deployed to take part in Red Flag. Red Flag is an air exercise in war fighting designed to allow combat air crews to train in the most realistic environment possible. Exercise participants come from units around the Air Force, Army, Navy and Marines. Allied forces also take part in the exercises. The first Red Flag exercise took place November 1975 to improve U.S. pilots air-to-air combat skills.

Weather warning: Knowing terms, tips can save lives

Capt. Corey Hummel

509th Operations Support Squadron

people should be alert and prepared to go to a shelter if a tornado warning is issued.

The watches and warnings the National Weather Service issues should not be confused with the watches and warnings Whiteman issues. The NWS watches and warnings aren't valid for Whiteman. The weather flight produces reports tailored to Whiteman's needs. Here's a breakdown of the information you may see:

Severe thunderstorm watch — This means there's a potential for thunderstorms to produce wind gusts equal to or greater than 58 miles per hour or hail three-fourths of an inch or larger on base.

Severe thunderstorm warning — This means severe thunderstorms are likely to occur on base at the given valid time.

Moderate thunderstorm warning — This is a product unique to the Air Force and means it's likely there will be thunderstorms on base producing wind gusts from 39 mph to 57 mph and or hail less than one inch.

Tornado watch — This means there's the potential for tornadoes on base. It doesn't mean tornadoes are imminent; however,

...Exercise Warning...

The 509th Bomb Wing Plans Office has issued an exercise warning for Tuesday. There is a 100 percent chance of a natural disaster response exercise involving a severe weather scenario. Base residents should expect to hear the giant voice siren. All employees and residents should practice taking shelter and appropriate recovery actions.

In the event of actual severe weather this spring, tune to television channel 99 on base cable, or monitor local radio stations for information and instructions.

>>end bulletin<<

Tornado warning — This warning is also a forecast warning with a valid time. Take cover immediately. The base sirens will be sounded, a three to five minute steady tone, preceded by giant voice saying, "tornado warning."

Lightning Watch (within five and 25 nautical miles) — This means there's the potential for lightning within five and 25 nautical miles of the base.

Lightning Warning (within five, 10 and 25 nautical miles) — This is an observed warning, not a forecast one. This means lightning has been observed within the prescribed distances. If your agency requires you to take action, do so immediately.

More details about local procedures are in Whiteman Air Force Base Instruction 15-11, Base Weather Support Plan. Required lead times are located at: <https://www.mil.whiteman.af.mil/Weather/index.shtml> or on the Whiteman Intranet under the "publications" link. All current watches and warnings for Whiteman can be found on our Web site under the "local weather" link.

If a tornado watch is issued

- ✓ If you're inside, protect yourself from glass and other flying objects.
- ✓ If you're outside, hurry to the basement of a nearby building or lie flat in a ditch or low-lying area.
- ✓ If you're in a car or mobile home, get out immediately and head for safety (as above).

After the tornado

- ✓ Watch for fallen power lines and stay out of the damaged area.
- ✓ Listen to the radio for information and instructions.
- ✓ Use a flashlight to inspect your home for damage. Avoid candles when natural gas is used in your area.

Common tornado myths

- ✓ Leave the windows alone when a tornado may be coming. It's a myth tornadoes cause houses to explode due to changes in air pressure.
- ✓ "Always take cover in the southwest corner of a basement." The southwest corner of the basement is just as safe as any other corner — or middle — of the basement. The best place to be is away from windows.
- ✓ "Getting under a highway overpass is safe." Tornadoes cause a lot of debris to be blown around and this debris can hurt you. Getting under a highway overpass is **not** a safe option.

Senior NCO training offers new perspective at PDLC



Courtesy photo

Master Sgt. Warren Weakley, 509th Bomb Wing career assistance advisor, speaks to Whiteman members during a Four Lenses training session at the Professional Development Leadership Course building.

By Melissa Klinkner
Public Affairs

Nineteen 509th Logistics Readiness Squadron and 11 Whiteman Top 3 members recently participated in the first Four Lenses training here. The training was conducted by 509th Mission Support Squadron and family support center staff members Tech. Sgt. Tammy Klonowski, Diane Munley and Bob Berger.

The workshop took place at the Professional Development Leadership Course building. It taught participants how to identify their own personality preferences as well as understand, accept and value others for their own unique strengths.

"The training is specifically designed to open the lines of communication between supervisor-troop, husband-wife, parent-child and reduce personal misunderstandings," Sergeant

Klonowski said. "It will generally help individuals communicate with others in a way which fosters mutual understanding and acceptance."

The program, which is sponsored by Air Combat Command through the Shipley Group, and contracted by ACC, is available to all Airmen. FSC staff members can provide the training to work centers, flights or squadrons.

Through the workshop, attendees are expected to gain a better understanding of themselves and their co-workers to perform better as a team to accomplish the mission.

"Individuals will understand we all have different personality and character traits," Sergeant Klonowski said. "They can learn to look with understanding into the heart of another. The principles discovered in this workshop will empower individuals to improve aspects of every professional and personal relationship in

their lives."

Master Sgt. Warren Weakley, 509th Bomb Wing career assistance advisor, attended the training and said it was outstanding.

"It reminds you how people look at the same things differently," he said. "You find out about yourself and know what to look for to better understand and communicate with others. Understanding the type of person you're communicating with helps achieve more efficient results much faster."

Sergeant Weakley encourages others to go through the training. "The course provides you another tool to be a more effective leader and follower," he said.

Four Lenses training can be requested by squadron leadership. The FSC staff members said they look forward to receiving more squadron requests to conduct the training session.

Turkey shoot winners

Editor's note: The Feb. 25 edition of the Whiteman Spirit incorrectly identified the winner of the annual Turkey Shoot. The 325th Bomb Squadron won the overall competition. Individual category winners were:

Best Squadron: **325th Bomb Squadron**

Best Crew: **Lt. Col. Greg Smith and Capt. Tim Hale 325th BS**

Best Bomb: **Capt. Ben Both, 325th BS**

325th Aircraft Maintenance Unit Superior Performer: — **Staff Sgt. Seth Hardy,**

393rd AMU Superior Performer: Staff Sgt. Christopher Johnson

Turkey Shoot Best Crew Chief Team: 393rd AMU — **Staff Sgts. Todd Halvorsen, Christopher Johnson,**

Airman 1st Class Zachary Teague

Turkey Shoot Best Specialist Launch Crew: 325th AMU — **Tech. Sgts. William Roe, John Waller, and Kevin Richmond, Staff Sgt. William Rowley, and Senior Airmen Bob Dais, and James Peil**

Turkey Shoot AMU February award winner: **393rd AMU**

509er deals with stress 'inside the wire'

By Kathleen Rhem
American Forces Press Service

NAVAL STATION GUANTANAMO BAY, Cuba (AFP) — Working "inside the wire" of the enemy combatant detention facility can lead to stress for the U.S. troops working here. But experts and leaders are working hard to help servicemembers deal with the unique conditions of working on this isolated island base.

Stress-control issues are something the leaders of Joint Task Force Guantanamo "are always on top of and always looking out for," said Master Sgt. Tom Crowson, a security forces Airman deployed here from the 509th Security Forces Squadron at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo.

Stress issues within the task force are referred to as "combat stress," because servicemembers here are serving on one of the front lines in the war on terror. Troops here deal with some unique issues as well as the everyday concerns that can lead to stress on any deployment.

Servicemembers can become overwhelmed by personal problems with peers or leaders, relationship problems or by the stress of dealing with detainees, said Army Sgt. Michelle Olson, a combat stress control specialist with the 1972nd Combat Stress Control Unit from Seattle.

Troops in the task force run 24-hour operations, and the sheer workload can overwhelm some people, particularly those used to working routine, Monday-through-Friday jobs, Sergeant Olson said.

Unique aspects of working in the detention facility can add to the stress. Troops working inside the wire must pass through several sets of intimidating double gates. They always cover their nametapes and never call each other by their real names while they are near detainees. And the servicemembers here can never forget that some of the men they are guarding have sworn to kill their countrymen.

As on most military bases, many avenues are available for troops seeking help dealing with stress issues or for

leaders who feel a service member needs help. Soldiers of the combat stress unit are on call 24 hours a day, and the unit's offices are located in Camp America, where many task force service members live.

Chaplains and social workers also are available through various base units and agencies, and the naval hospital here has a psychiatrist on staff.

Combat stress specialists work with troops to help them develop tools for dealing with their stress.

"We certainly don't just say, 'This is what you need to do,' like, 'Here's a magic pill,'" Sergeant Olson said. "We try to give them the facts about human behavior and how the brain works, and then we kind of guide them through what the best solution is."

Sometimes just talking with someone neutral about a problem is all it takes to deal with the problem, she said.

Troops can also take stress-management, anger-management and time-management courses through the base's fleet and family service center.

But more importantly, Sergeant Olson said, servicemembers need to look out for each other.

"We have to take care of each other here," she said. "It's so easy if someone (appears to be having problems) to be like, 'You know, that's none of my business.' But it's our business. And I encourage people — leaders and peers also — to just be proactive."

Leaders are constantly on the lookout for some signs that should be red flags that a troop might need help. Seclusion is the No. 1 thing that would alarm him as a leader, Sergeant Crowson said.

"If all a troop wants to do is go back to his residence and go to bed, if he shuts the door and (won't) come out until he's ready to go back to work, and he's always tired and not hanging out with the rest of the group," that would be a sure sign the servicemember might need help, he said.

Other things they watch for include: poor sleep habits, agitated behavior and excessive alcohol or tobacco use, Sergeant Olson said. Increased drinking is a particular issue

within the joint task force, she said.

"Unfortunately at Guantanamo, on average, people will increase their alcohol consumption by 300 percent when they come here," she said.

Sergeant Olson said it's important for leaders to stress the value of exercise, good nutrition and off-duty activities in combating stress problems.

"Some of the (troops) work daily with the detainees and the security mission. That job can be fairly stressful for a whole number of reasons," said Army Brig. Gen. Jay Hood, task force commander. "They are working very closely with some men who are very dangerous."

"What we've found though is the opportunities afforded them when they come off shift and out of the camps, out from inside the wire, allow them an opportunity to relax a little bit and have helped significantly," he said.

Recreation opportunities abound at Guantanamo Bay. The seaside location and year-round warm weather make water sports easily accessible any time. The base also features a golf course and intramural sports teams, as well as several gyms.

Despite the stressful working conditions, Sergeant Crowson said he is impressed with the level of dedication and camaraderie he has encountered among people from the various military services and components serving here.

"(There is a lot) of dedication — you see that all the time," he said. He related how some of the Airmen on his team have experienced deaths in their families but chose to stay here because they were committed to the mission.

The 20-year Air Force veteran said he has also been impressed with the lack of interservice rivalry within the joint task force.

"I heard all the negative things about the services, you know, Army can't stand Air Force, and so on and so forth," he said. "And there are certain areas here where there are issues. But 90 percent of it has been, without a doubt, the best experience of my life as far as working with other services."



Photo by Staff Sgt. Tia Schroeder

The 509th Bomb Wing's 2004 annual award winners pose for a photo. Pictured from left are Col. Chris Miller, 509th BW commander; Capt. Matthew Lewin, 509th Maintenance Squadron, Company Grade Officer of the Year; Bernard Jones, 509th CES, Laborer/Craftsman of the Year; Lewis Ensor, 509th Civil Engineer Squadron,

Associate of the Year; Tech. Sgt. Shane Hage-meier, 509th Communications Squadron, NCO of the Year; Senior Airman Brett Tillman, 509th Operations Support Squadron, Airman of the Year; Lisa Benson, wife of Master Sgt. John Benson, 509th CES, First Sergeant of the Year; Senior Master Sgt. Donald Carney, 509th Services

Squadron, Senior NCO of the Year; Cindy Walters, 509th Comptroller Squadron, Specialist/Manager of the Year; Senior Airman Robert Legg, 509 Munitons Squadron, Honor Guard Member of the Year; Deana Barylski, 509th BW, Volunteer of the Year; and Chief Master Sgt. Vicki Orcutt, 509th BW command chief master sergeant.

Whiteman recognizes the best of the best

By Senior Airman Neo Martin

Public Affairs

The 509th Bomb Wing announced its 2004 annual award winners during a banquet at Mission's End.

More than 250 people attended the ceremony Feb. 25, to recognize their friends' and co-workers' hard work and dedication in 2004.

The annual awards is part of the Air Combat Command program that recognizes the role those Whiteman members play in meeting the wing's mission.

The night began with a medallion ceremony and featured a video of the wing's 2004 accomplishments, followed by introducing the 40 nominees, dinner, entertainment, award presentations and a final congratulations to the winners.

The U.S. Air Force Band of Mid-America, Starlifter, from Scott Air Force Base, Ill., played and sang songs ranging from "God Bless America" to "The Air Force Song."

The Standard Systems Group Saber Drill Team, the only Air Force enlisted saber drill team, from Maxwell Air Force Base, Gunter-Annex in Montgomery, Ala., also entertained the crowd.

After the entertainment, Col. Chris Miller, 509th BW commander, and Chief Master Sgt. Vicki Orcutt, 509th BW command chief master sergeant, presented the awards to the winners.

They are:

- ✓ Company Grade Officer of the Year — **Capt. Matthew Lewin**, 509th Maintenance Squadron;
- ✓ Senior NCO of the Year — **Senior Master Sgt.**

Donald Carney, 509th Services Squadron;

✓ NCO of the Year — **Tech. Sgt. Shane Hage-meier**, 509th Communications Squadron;

✓ Airman of the Year — **Senior Airman. Brett Tillman**, 509th Operations Support Squadron;

✓ First Sergeant of the Year — **Master Sgt. John Benson**, 509th Civil Engineer Squadron;

✓ Honor Guard Member of the Year — **Senior Airman Robert Legg**, 509 Munitons Squadron;

✓ Specialist/Manager of the Year — **Cindy Walters**, 509th Comptroller Squadron;

✓ Associate of the Year — **Lewis Ensor**, 509th CES,

✓ Laborer/Craftsman of the Year — **Bernard Jones**, 509th CES; and

✓ Volunteer of the Year — **Deana Barylski**, 509 BW.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Tia Schroeder

Capt. Christopher Seaman, 509th Medical Support Squadron, took an opportunity at the banquet to propose to his fiancee - to-be Jennifer Etters.



Photo by Senior Airman Neo Martin

Whiteman Honor Guard members, Senior Airman Brennen Willing and Airman 1st Class Daniel Rivera, post saber arms to honor the attendees of Whiteman's annual award ceremony Feb 25.

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WINGMAN AWARD



Airman 1st Class Zachariah Curry
509th Communications Squadron

(Editor's note: The Wingman Award recognizes Airmen, civilians, family or contractors who display a high level of commitment to caring for the Air Force family.)

Airman 1st Class Zachariah Curry, 509th Communications Squadron, received the Whiteman Wingman Award from Col. Chris Miller, 509th Bomb Wing commander, Monday.

Senior Master Sgt. Max Grindstaff, 509th CS superintendent, nominated Airman Curry for the award.

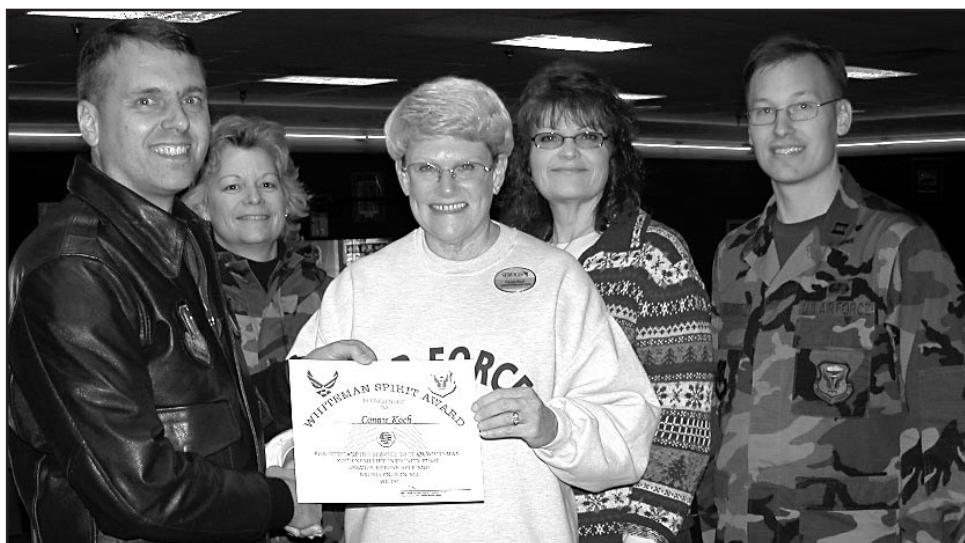
A Whiteman Airman injured himself at the Snow Creek Resort in Weston, Mo., Jan. 21. Airman Curry and his friends had just fin-

ished snowboarding, when he heard an Airman from Whiteman was injured and needed transportation to a hospital.

The injured Airman had suffered a broken wrist and needed to go to North Kansas City Hospital. Airman Curry drove the Airman to the hospital, then remained with the Airman through the night until the Airman's supervisor and co-workers arrived the next morning.

"Airman Curry exemplified not only the true spirit of the Wingman concept, but also exceptional core values," Sergeant Grindstaff said. "He is an inspirational young Airman who will one day do great things in the Air Force."

Whiteman Spirit Award



Connie Koch

509th Services Squadron

Connie Koch, 509th Services Squadron, received the Whiteman Spirit Award from Col. Matthew Erichsen, 509th Bomb Wing vice commander, Monday.

Meladee Bay, 509th SVS, nominated Mrs. Koch for the award.

During a recent Air and Space Expeditionary Force rotation, 20 people from Offutt Air Force Base, Neb., spent the afternoon in the community center while waiting for transportation. Mrs. Koch kept the community center open for the Airmen, and also found a place for napping in the facility.

"She provided them with gracious hospitality," said Lt. Col. John Kressek, 55th Mission Support Squadron commander at Offutt. "Connie was so nice to take care of 20 of my folks. She was perfect. Thanks for a job that was better than expected."

Personally Speaking

Time on station: 4 years, 2 months

Hometown: Sedalia

Spouse: Bud Koch

Children: Jesse and Josh

Hobbies: Skydiving, scuba diving, rac-

ing four-wheelers, speed skating, playing with my 11 snakes and my six grandchildren, biking, kayaking, camping and spending good times with my husband.

Goals: To complete a cross-country bike ride in 2006 with the "Five Points of Life" cycling team. I'll be riding to honor my son, Jesse, who saved many lives with his precious gifts of life as an organ donor in 1998.

Best thing about Whiteman: My excellent staff: Bill, Bea, Betty and Josh. The Airmen I serve. My flight chief, Mel Bay, who grants me the latitude to leap outside the box and have a lot of seriously great fun with my job.

Pet Peeves: Those who don't give a little more than is expected. It takes so little effort and is so appreciated.

What motivates your winning spirit? A verse I taught my sons when they were small: "Good, better, best ... never let it rest ... 'til your good is better ... and your better is best."

If you could change one thing about Whiteman, what would it be? I would move it a little closer to Sedalia.

In the face of hate

509er kept values through tough times

By Senior Airman Joe Lacdan
Public Affairs

Confederate flags still hang from the 1930s-style homes of Jamestown, Tenn., about 130 miles northeast of Nashville, Tenn.

Nearly all of the rural town’s population has white skin, and whispers of the “Klan” still echo in its streets.

“There’s a lot of people there who still want things to be the way they were before the Civil War,” said Benjamin Anderson, who grew up in the town, which lies near the Kentucky-Tennessee border.

Now, a 38-year-old technical sergeant assigned to the 509th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, one memory remains etched in his mind: *A young African-American man enters a general store to deliver cases of soda. After unloading the boxed goods the store’s owner stops the man as he turns to leave the store.*

“Son,” said the owner. “I don’t want to scare you or anything, but make sure you’re in your truck and out of town before darkness falls.”

The black man looked at the store owner surprised.

“The people in this town,” the store owner said. “don’t like people who aren’t white. I don’t want to see you hurt because you’re a nice guy.”

A young Sergeant Anderson witnessed similar scenes while growing up in the small rural community of 2,000 people.

Shortly after Sergeant Anderson was born in Oneida, Tenn., Edgar and Frances Ander-

son decided to move their nine children north, to Attica, Ind. There, Sergeant Anderson and his brothers grew up among people of diverse cultures.

He befriended a short Hispanic boy named Gary. The two became inseparable, riding bikes around their suburban neighborhood, skateboarding and climbing trees.

“It’s not the color of the skin that makes a person,” Sergeant Anderson said. “It’s what they have inside. It’s what my parents always instilled in me.”

He kept those words with him, even after his parents divorced in the summer of 1977, and his mother moved him and his two younger brothers back to Jamestown.

Now, 11, Sergeant Anderson lived with his grandmother, who raised the boys with an iron hand. She made sure the boys were in bed by seven each night. Each day she had them feed the chickens, chop wood and tend the gardens.

“If she told you to do something,” Sergeant Anderson said. “It was law.”

But nothing could prepare him for the culture shock of life in Jamestown.

His cousin had returned from Crossville, Tenn., a town 40 miles north of Jamestown. Sergeant Anderson’s cousin, disgruntled from working with Hispanic people, made racist remarks including “border jumper.”

“What I heard went against everything I was taught,” said Sergeant Anderson, now a member of Whiteman’s African-American History Committee. “To me, (Jamestown) was an alien world.”

“There were a lot of people in the town that didn’t like you if you weren’t white,”



Photo by Senior Airman Joe Lacdan

Tech. Sgt. Benjamin Anderson (center), 509th Communications Squadron, is a member of Whiteman’s African-American History Committee. Here he’s pictured with Staff Sgt. Kenneethia Kennard, 509th Bomb Wing, and Master Sgt. Mark Carter, 509th Logistics Readiness Squadron.

he said. “They wouldn’t even speak to you.”

One night, he turned to his mother as they sat on the family’s front porch. His family members’ words confused him.

“Momma, what’s going on?” he said.

“Why are grandma and Uncle Dave sayin’ things like this?”

“That’s just the way they are,” his mother said. “Don’t be like them. Remember what you were (taught).”

When he heard the townspeople talk of Ku Klux Klan rallies, and when he heard his high school classmates use the “N” word, he held his tongue.

“It upset me,” Sergeant Anderson said.

“I had to repress many things — things I heard, things I saw. “I couldn’t open up about it because I’d get knocked down for it.”

Sergeant Anderson said he never agreed with his peers’ racist views, and even when he left Jamestown in the spring of 1987 to join the Air Force, most of the town remained the same. Now, Sergeant Anderson tries to instill his good values and morals regarding race in his three sons.

“I try to let them know everybody’s the same,” Sergeant Anderson said. “Don’t judge people by what they look like on the outside ... If you do, you may miss out on the best friend you ever had.”

This space is reserved for advertisements

1st Sergeant's View

(Editor's note: The 1st Sergeant's View gives Whiteman first sergeants a chance to remind people of correct uniform wear, customs and courtesies, and proper military decorum.)

By Senior Master Sgt. Mark Clark
509th Operations Group

In my 11 years as a first sergeant, I've been asked many times, "Is first sergeant duty really as difficult as I hear?" Unfortunately, there's no easy answer to that question because it all depends on a person's perspective. After all, how do you quantify what "difficult" means to everyone? My answer, in most cases, is simply to say don't believe everything you hear and serving as an Air Force first sergeant is the best job I've ever had.

Being a first sergeant is challenging for sure, but not as bad as some think it is. Sure, there are late-night calls, and dealing with the knuckleheads who infiltrate our ranks can be stressful at times but that is such a small part of what being a first sergeant is.

Being a first sergeant requires total commitment to the people and the mission without regard for personal goals or desires. This requires many sacrifices by the shirts and their families. That's why many think the job is difficult and perhaps many qualified and eager master sergeants, who might otherwise be very successful in this critical enlisted leadership position, are told by others to look the other way when the Air Force needs them.

It amazes me to hear all the negatives regarding first sergeant duty from senior leaders when their troops come to them with questions about this very critical position. I've heard "you'll never get promoted," as the primary reason shirt duty is frowned upon. Well, I earned both senior and chief with a diamond on my arm and I know many others who have done the same.

My message to master sergeants who are interested in serving as a shirt is simply to follow your heart. My wife, Linda, has said it many times that being a first sergeant is not what I did, it was who I was. If you believe that being a first sergeant is your calling, then answer the call. I promise you it will be the most rewarding experience of your life.

My message to senior leaders is to support your senior NCOs who show an interest in serving the Air Force as a first sergeant. This is sometimes difficult because the per-

son expressing an interest may be your best senior NCO. But the question really is, "Who else should we put in this critical leadership position?" We should not only support those who show an interest but we should recommend this growth opportunity to our best senior NCOs. The experience they will bring back to their career field when they return will pay dividends for decades to come.

I've recently been blessed with selection for promotion to chief master sergeant and with that promotion comes accepting a new and exciting opportunity to serve the members of the 509th Operations Group as their group superintendent, which means I will soon remove my diamond. This will be a little strange since my name has simply been "shirt" since 1994. But, it's what the mission requires.

That is what being a first sergeant is all about after all, putting the interest of the Air Force and its people first. I may no longer wear the diamond but I will always be a "shirt" at heart.

If you're interested in becoming a first sergeant, go see your shirt or give me a call. It's been my honor to serve eight squadrons and two deployed groups as a first sergeant and to work with the dedicated men and women who wear the diamond representing the enlisted force around the globe. It really is the best job in the Air Force.

Need a

Wingman?

Call the Whiteman Help Hotline:

866-395-4357

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Carrie Walters, thrift shop volunteer, prepares clothing to be placed on the main floor. The thrift shop is open to everyone with base privileges and all profits are donated to charities.



Thrift shop volunteer Julie Mayer, helps a customer make a purchase. Each day, the thrift shop has about 400 customers.

Vision, Values and Volunteers:

Thrift shop offers range of community support

Story and photos by Melissa Klinkner
Public Affairs

For many years, the thrift shop has been providing a variety of products at low prices for anyone with base privileges.

The thrift shop, located on Center Street, behind the Professional Development Center, sells donated and consigned items.

With goals of helping the local area, the revenue raised by the thrift shop is used to support a wide range of community support programs.

"The objective of the thrift shop is to provide a facility for the sale of used merchandise," said Rhonda Miller, wife of 509th Bomb Wing Commander Col. Chris Miller. "Income is generated by the sale of donated items and by the collection of fees on items sold on consignment.

"The proceeds are then given to the Whiteman Officer's Spouses Club and the Whiteman Enlisted Community Organization to be used for high school senior and dependent spouse scholarships, as well as other deserving projects selected with the

approval of the clubs' executive boards," Mrs. Miller said.

Except for the thrift store manager, Jennie Rhoden, the store is operated by volunteers from the WOSC and WECO. In 2004, 585 volunteers donated 39,861 hours of their time to the thrift shop.

"We support the community by providing them with things they need at prices they can afford, while supporting Whiteman through the charitable donations," said Brooke Helper, WOSC president.

The thrift shop has shown there is a need for such a store at Whiteman. Each day, the store has about 400 customers and brings in \$800-\$1,000.

With 500-600 items going through the store each day, the thrift shop offers a wide variety of products. It sells books and magazines, electronics, bedding, housewares, uniforms, shoes, furniture, DVDs, jewelry, seasonal and baby items.

One of the largest sections of the store is the baby area, which volunteers affectionately refer to as the "baby room." Here, customers can choose from an assortment of clothing, stuffed animals, car seats and toys.

Thrift Shop Hours

Mondays: 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
Tuesdays: 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
Fridays: 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Consigning takes place noon-2 p.m. Tuesdays and Fridays.



Volunteer Stacy Hass prices clothing items to be placed on the main floor. The thrift shop offers a wide variety of items in addition to clothing. Some of the other items the shop sells are books and magazines, electronics and baby items. Mrs. Hass is a member of the Whiteman Enlisted Community Organization.

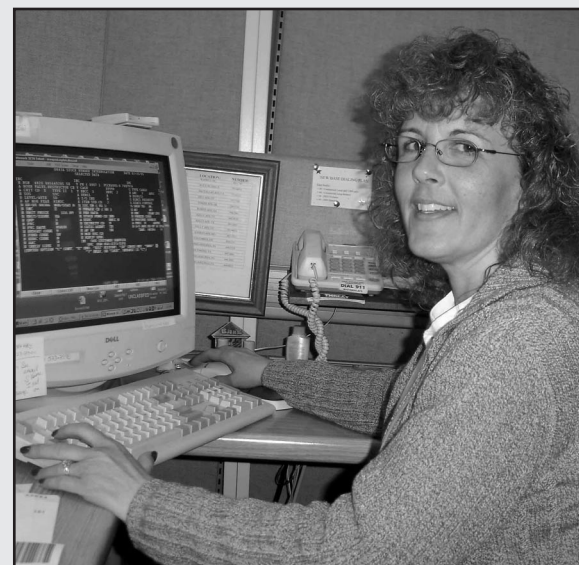


Volunteer Marina Cebollada writes pricing tags before clothing items are placed on the main floor. Consigned items received by the thrift shop are placed on the main floor for 20 working days while donated items stay on the floor for six weeks. After the 20th day or sixth week, prices are marked down.



Jennie Rhoden, thrift shop manager, assists customer Nelly Shows in finding a gift. Mrs. Shows said she comes to the thrift shop every two weeks. "I love everything about (the thrift shop, especially) the prices!," she said.

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Civilian Employee of the Week

The Whiteman Civilian Employee of the Week is Hollie Cooper, 509th Logistics Readiness Squadron. Chief Master Sgt. Terry West, 509th LRS, nominated Mrs. Cooper for the award. After the management and systems flight was tasked to research a T-38 parts ordering problem, Mrs. Cooper quickly took control of the situation. She discovered an automated problem, which caused requisitions to be misdirected to the wrong supply depot and corrected without any negative impact to Whiteman's T-38 fleet. "Her sustained efforts have led to an all-time low T-38 grounding rate for three consecutive months — the best overall support ever," Chief West said. "(Mrs. Cooper) is an outstanding member of the LRS team and pledges to provide continuous world-class logistical support to Whiteman Air Force Base."

Don't miss out on Tricare benefits

Parents of newborns or adopted children must register them in the Defense Eligibility Reporting System no later than 60 days after the event to receive Tricare Prime benefits. To



do this, the sponsor must take a copy of the child's birth certificate or adoption papers to the military personnel flight customer service section. After enrolling in DEERS, parents can get a Tricare enrollment forms at the 509th Medical Group Tricare Service Center or at <http://www.triwest.com>. To get one by mail, call 888-TRIWEST (874-9378).



If you have any information concerning a crime and wish to remain anonymous, call Crime Stop at 687-4636.

What's happening

Community

Top 3 meets

The Whiteman Top 3 meets at 3 p.m. Thursday at Mission's End. For more details, call Senior Master Sgt. Steve Poole at 687-5073.

CGOA hosts social

The Company Grade Officers' Association meets at 5 p.m. Thursday at Mission's End in the pool room for an informal gathering. Pizza will be provided. For more information, call 2nd Lt. Mary Olsen at 687-6121.

Tier 2 meeting set

The new Whiteman Tier 2 meeting times are at 3 p.m. the first Tuesday of each month and at 10 a.m. the third Tuesday of each month at Mission's End. The next meeting begins at 10 a.m. March 15.

The guest speaker is Chief Master Sgt. Terrance Douglas, 509th Medical Group. For more details, call Tech. Sgt. Tammy Klonowski, WT2 president, at 687-7132.

NSPS regulations available

The National Security Personnel System proposed regulations are available for public review and comment now through March 16. All civilian employees and managers are encouraged to visit the Whiteman Civilian Personnel Web site at <https://intranet.whiteman.af.mil/509BW/509MSG/509MSS/dpc/civ.htm> to review these proposed regulations. For more details, call Ed Harris at 687-6475.

Special needs meeting set

A forum for parents, teachers and others who care for special needs children begins at 6:30 p.m. Thursday at the Whiteman Elementary School library. Learn about the support services available and meet others who understand the challenges facing special needs families.

Free child care will be provided. Call Jeanette Bachmann at 563-3303 to reserve child care.

Gate passes available

Some airlines are offering family members gate passes for the departure and arrival of deployed Airmen. This allows family members to go inside the secure passenger area of the terminal.

To obtain these passes, families must arrive at the airline ticketing counter at least one hour before the arrival or departure, with the traveler's confirmation code and a military dependent identification card. Some security situations may prevent these passes from being issued. For more details, call the airline on which the military member is traveling.

Education

For more details, visit <https://wwwmil.whiteman.af.mil/509mss/educ/homepage.htm> or call 687-5750.

Assessment survey set

The base training and education services flight is conducting a needs assessment survey to gauge the educational needs of the Whiteman community. Active-duty military, dependents, civilians and contractors are asked to complete the survey.

To access the survey, visit <https://afvec>.

langley.af.mil and click on "Take the Survey." Feedback and comments are vital to ensure the training and education services flight offers programs that fit your needs.

AFAF offers grants

The Air Force Aid Society is offering 4,500 college grants.

Applications for the \$1,500 need-based grants must be received by March 11.

The program is open to dependents of active duty, Guard or Reserve performing active duty and retired or deceased Airmen.

Applicants must be enrolled as full-time undergraduates at an accredited college or university during the 2005-2006 academic year and must maintain a 2.0 grade point average.

Selection is based on cost of attendance, income and number of applicants.

For more details and application instructions, visit the AFAS Web site at <http://www.afas.org> or call 800-429-9475.

Family Support

Call 687-7132 for details on these events or other family support center activities. Events take place at the FSC.

Deployed families party set

A St. Patrick's Day party for families of deployed and remote service members begins at 2 p.m. March 12. Pizza, beverages and bowling will be provided by the FSC. Reservations are required by Wednesday.

Pre-separation briefing offered

A pre-separation briefing for people separating from the military begins at 8 a.m. Monday. Representatives from the military personnel flight, family support center, Reserve and finance will provide information. The MPF separations and retirements office schedules members for this briefing. For more information, call 687-1500 or 687-6720.

Class helps new parents

Expectant parents can gain information and resources at the Bundles for Babies class at 8 a.m. Tuesday. Participants will receive free Time Life books and layette bundles. Reservations are required.

WIC representative visits base

A WIC representative is available beginning at 8:30 a.m. Tuesday and Thursday. WIC includes nutrition education, health promotion and a supplemental food program to help women, infants and children who have nutritional needs. For more details, call the WIC office in Warrensburg at 660-747-2012.

Seminar helps new spouses

Designed for spouses with less than five years affiliation with the military, Heart Link begins at 8 a.m. Wednesday. Learn about the mission, customs, protocol, and support resources and services from the experts. Lunch and child monitoring provided on-site. Reservations required.

Pre-deployment briefing set

A mandatory pre-deployment briefing for people who are deploying or going on a temporary duty assignment for more than 30 days begins at 1 p.m. Wednesday. Spouses are encouraged to attend. This briefing covers information about preparing for deployment and programs available to family members who are left behind.

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Photo by 1st Lt. Ed Gulick

No 'runnin on fumes' here

Members of the 509th Logistics Readiness Squadron Fuels Flight stand with Col. Chris Miller, 509th Bomb Wing commander, after he presented them with the runner-up plaque for the Air Combat Command Drake Award. The award recognizes the best fuels operation in the command.

For three days in November, ACC inspectors analyzed Whiteman's fuels facilities, equipment, external vehicle support and flight line operations.

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Menus

Knob Noster Elementary School

- Monday:** Chicken with noodles, peas, fruit salad and pie
- Tuesday:** Sub sandwich, corn, pineapple chunks and Jell-O
- Wednesday:** Chicken patty, mashed potatoes, carrots and orange
- Thursday:** Hamburger, potato wedges, fruit cocktail and cookies
- March 11:** Pizza, salad, pears and pudding

Whiteman Elementary School

- Monday:** Hamburger, salad, macaroni with cheese and fruit
- Tuesday:** Vegetable soup, chicken salad sandwich, salad and cinnamon rolls
- Wednesday:** Pork steak, mashed potatoes with gravy, green beans, fruit and roll
- Thursday:** Lasagna, salad, mixed vegetables and pudding
- March 11:** Pizza, salad, corn and fruit cobbler

Chapel Corner

Services schedule

Catholic

Eucharist (mass) — 11:30 a.m. Tuesdays through Fridays; 5 p.m. Saturdays; and 9 a.m. Sundays
Reconciliation — After mass or by request



Additional worship opportunities are offered through various lay councils, organizations and activities. For more information, call 687-3652.

Religious Education — 10:45 a.m. Sundays at the base education and training center

Protestant

General worship — 11 a.m. Sundays
Gospel — 1 p.m. Sundays
Sunday School — 9:30 a.m. Sundays

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Photo by Staff Sgt. Steve Grever

Cadets sing at All-star game

DENVER — The U.S. Air Force Academy Cadet Chorale and David Robinson, a retired San Antonio Spur and 1987 Naval Academy graduate, sing the national anthem at the 2005 NBA All-Star Game here Feb. 20. The cadet chorale's visit was part of the NBA's salute to the men and women of the armed forces.



Photo by Connie Koch

Wizards of chess

The "Whiteman Warriors" competitive chess team defeated the Central Missouri State University Chess Club by forfeit in a chess tournament Saturday at the community center. Michael Walborn (right), 509th Maintenance Squadron, took first place while Jonathan White (left), 509th MXS, took second. The tournament was an Air Combat Command-sponsored activity.

Sports shorts

Umpire clinic scheduled

Get certified to become a softball umpire at 6 p.m. today in the Liberty Park office in Sedalia. There are also times at 6 p.m. Monday at the park and recreation office in Clinton, Mo., March 18 at the Warrensburg community center in Warrensburg, and March 21 at the park and recreation office in Concordia, Mo. For more details, call Master Sgt. Gregg Gangemella at 687-1950.

Falcon roundup

SAN ANTONIO (AFPN) — The University of Nevada, Las Vegas downed the Falcons in men's basketball 63-57 in Las Vegas Feb. 26. The academy men are now 16-11, and 7-5 in the Mountain West Conference.

In other Air Force sports action, the women's basketball team dropped their home finale, 77-61, to San Diego State University Feb. 26. They fall to 7-18, 2-10 in the Mountain West Conference.

In hockey, the Falcons tussled twice with Wayne State University, losing 5-1 Feb. 26 and tying the Warriors 3-3 Feb. 27. The academy is now 13-16-3 overall and 5-12-1 in the College Hockey America League.

In baseball, the Falcons fell to the Midshipmen of Navy, 5-3, at the 2005 Service Academies Spring Classic baseball tournament Feb. 26. The loss dropped the Falcons to 3-7 on the season. Air Force had eight base hits in the game.

Travis Picou won the men's 200-meter dash and finished third in the 60-meter dash, en route to earning Freshman of the Year honors at the 2005 Mountain West Conference track and field championships Feb. 26 at the academy.



Bowling Standings

Wednesday Intramural League
(Week 22 of 34 current as of Feb. 23)

Team	Wins	Losses
CES A	138	54
AMXS	135	57
OSS	126	66
MDG A	124	68
SVS	112	80
MXS A	108	84
CPTS	104	88
SFS	91	101
MXS B	88	104
MUNS	86	106
MSS/BW	86	109
COMM	83	122
CES B	70	124
CES C	68	124
MOS	68	124
BLIND	45	147

Aerobics Schedule

For more details about these classes, call the fitness center at 687-5496.

Mondays — 5:45 a.m. Cycling 12:15 p.m. Turbo Kick, 5:15 p.m. Core Strength 6:15 p.m. Yoga, and 8 p.m. Cardio Kickbox

Tuesdays — 9 a.m. Pilates, 11:30 a.m. Extreme Fitness, 4:30 p.m. Cycling, and 6:15 p.m. Kick n Step

Wednesdays — 5:45 a.m. Cycling 12:15 p.m. Bounce & Burn and 5:15 p.m. Core Strength

Thursdays — 9 a.m. Pilates, 11:30 a.m. Extreme Fitness, 4:30 p.m. Cycling, 6:15 p.m. Kick n step, and 8 p.m. Cardio Kickbox

Fridays — 5:45 Cycling and 12:15 p.m. Turbo Kick



Services Page editor.....Jamie Jennings
509th Services Squadron.....687-6525
*No federal endorsement of mentioned sponsors intended.

Sports & Recreation

Outdoor Recreation 687-5565

Overtime rock climbing

Open climbing for certified climbers is available 5:30-9 p.m. today. A certification class takes place 6-8 p.m. today. The course for new climbers will show basic rock climbing skills, encourage teamwork and use of equipment.

Wall climbing class

A certification class takes place 9-11 a.m. Saturday. The course for new climbers will show basic rock climbing skills, encourage teamwork and use of equipment.

Fitness Center 687-5496

St. Patrick's Day tournament

Teams can sign up now through March 11 for a racquetball tournament. Matches will be played 11 a.m.-1 p.m. March 14-17. For more information, contact the fitness center staff. Sponsored in part by GNC* in Warrensburg.

March Madness basketball tournament

A tournament takes place 11 a.m.-1 p.m. March 21-25. Sign your 3-person team up by March 16 at the fitness center front desk. For more information, contact the fitness center staff. Sponsored in part by GNC* in Warrensburg, Mo.

Royal Oaks Golf Course 687-5572

Lockers at the Royal Oaks Golf Course must be cleaned out by March 11. Lockers not cleaned out by March 11 will be opened, items will be bagged and taken to the new club house.

Food & Fun

Mission's End 687-4422

Mega March Madness

Exclusively from DIRECTV*, MEGA MARCH MADNESS* brings you up to 37 out-of-market CBS-produced broadcasts from the first three rounds of the NCAA Division 1 mens' basketball tournament, up to and including the Sweet 16. This is available for members only.

ACC \$1 dinner

The Air Combat Command \$1 dinner takes place 5-7 p.m. March 17 at the Mission's End. Club members can enjoy corned beef, roast beef, cabbage, green beans, boiled potatoes, salad, dessert and drinks. The cost is \$1 per member. This is a members only event.

Stars & Strikes 687-5114

Luck of the Irish tournament

A triplex trios tournament, begins at 6 p.m. March 14 at the bowling center. Teams must sign up by March 13. The cost is \$45 per team for the prize fund. Team score is based on the best score bowled on each frame. For more information contact the bowing center staff. This tournament is sponsored in part by Speedway Chevrolet* and Action Realty*.

Deployed family members meal

Ozark Inn is serving a meal for deployed family members 4:30-8 p.m. March 17. The menu includes kid friendly items. This is cash only please. Please bring a copy of your spouse's orders with you. For more information, call 687-1383.

Community Activities

Skills Development Center 687-5691

Semi-annual stained glass sale

The skills development center offers a 25 percent discount on all in-stock stained glass during March.

Veterinary Clinic 687-2667

Does your pet have bad breath?

The vet clinic now carries a large selection of dental products for your furry friends. Toothpaste, water additives and greenies chews to help your pet with oral hygiene. Call or stop by or facility to check out the line of dental care. Visit the vet clinic at 401 Lockbourne Terrace between 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays or 8:30-2:30 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Family Child Care 687-1180

Family child care orientation class

Receive training to become a family child care provider 8 a.m.-4 p.m. March 14-18. Sign up by Wednesday. Call 687-5590 or 687-1180 for more information.

Youth Center 687-5586

Coach pitch & T-ball registration

Kindergarteners through seventh graders can pick up a registration packet 6:30 a.m.-6 p.m. until March 14 at the youth center. Completed packets can be returned for enrollment 7 a.m.-1 p.m. March 14 or 12 p.m.-8 p.m. March 15. Enrollment will not be allowed if registration packets are not complete. The cost is \$30 for members and \$38 for nonmembers. Children must be 5 years old before March 1.

Volunteer coaches are needed

Coaches are needed for kindergarten-twelfth grade coach pitch, softball, t-ball and baseball. Training and certification are both provided by the youth center. Stop by the youth center to pick a volunteer packet. Call the 687-3199 for information and to sign up.

St. Patrick's Day party

Join the youth center for the annual K-7 party. Youths can have their face painted or play games in the gym. Play bingo for prizes or play games with friends in the lobby. The cost is \$6 for members and \$7.50 for nonmembers.

Flashlight easter egg hunt

Kindergarteners through fourth graders can bring flashlights 6:30-9:30 p.m. March 18 for a nighttime Easter egg hunt. When all the eggs are found, come inside for cookie

Tickets & Travel 687-5643

Need plane tickets, hotel accommodations, cruise information or information on local attractions? The staff at Whiteman Information Tickets & Travel will be glad to help you. Stop by the office located inside the skills development center 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesdays-Saturdays.

decorating, lollipop walk, games, a movie and play bingo to win prizes. The cost is \$7 for members and \$8.50 for nonmembers.

Teen Center 687-5819

Shopping trip to Independence Mall

Teens can enjoy a fun day of shopping at the mall noon-8 p.m. Saturday. The cost is \$2. Bring money for shopping and snacks.

Baseball and softball sign ups

Youths ages 10 and older can sign up March 1-14 for tri-County baseball and softball. Youths will play on gender specific teams against opponents from 10 surrounding communities. The cost is \$30 for members and \$38 for nonmembers. Volunteer coaches are needed. Contact the youth center to volunteer.

Community Center 687-5617

Teddy bears picnic

Children ages 3-7 and their parents are invited to bring their teddy bear 3-5 p.m. Saturday to the community center for a picnic and games. Refreshments will be served.

You must have been a beautiful baby

Submit a favorite picture of your baby to be publicly displayed and voted on. Bring your photo to the community center March 10-15 with baby's name and parent's names, phone number and birth date on the back. Voting will take place March 25. Ballots will be counted to decide winners at 6 p.m. March 25. Babies must be 12 months or younger. Prizes will be awarded to all participants. No professional photos please. Pictures can be picked up after March 29.

Card house construction

Not your ordinary card game. You build the biggest card house without collapsing 1-3 p.m. March 12 at the community center. Prizes will be awarded for tallest and most area covered. All ages are welcome to this free event.

Movie Schedule

Friday & Saturday

Hide and Seek 7 p.m. R
Starring - Robert DeNiro & Dakota Fanning

Sunday

Alone in the Dark 5:30 p.m. R
Starring - Christian Slater & Tara Reid

Adults: \$3.50 Children: \$1.75
Movie Recording Line: 687-5110

Movies subject to change due to availability. For current and future movie listings visit

<http://www.aafes.com/ems/conus/whiteman.htm>.